

June 26, 2003

**Public Notice for 401 Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

**Mendocino Redwood Company Hayworth Creek Logging Road Project
WDID No. 1B03060WNME
Mendocino County**

On March 21, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Chris Surfleet of the Mendocino Redwood Company requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Hayworth Creek Logging Road Project in Mendocino County. The application was deemed complete on April 21, 2003. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the state associated with Hayworth Creek and the Noyo River Hydrologic Unit No. 113.20.

The proposed project is located in Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, and 34 of T19N R15 \W MDM. All the proposed work will take place in the Hayworth Creek Watershed, Mendocino County, California. The purpose of the project is to upgrade a logging road to protect juvenile coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) summer rearing and spawning habitat through controlling 8,900 cubic yards of sediment deliverable to Hayworth Creek and removal of two fish barriers.

The proposed project consists of the removal of two fish barriers on Gulch Seven by removing two culverts with excessive velocities and jump heights, and replacing them with bridges. The proposed project also includes a total of 23 road points to be storm proofed, and provide sediment control on approximately 4 miles of road. Of the 23 sites, 16 will have excess fill material removed and improvements to drainage and road erosion. In addition, four culverts are proposed for removal to be replaced with rock fords or temporary crossings, and three culverts will be upgraded to a larger size. An additional 1.3 miles of streamside road is proposed to have a rock surface applied to it in order to reduce the erosion potential. In addition, along the 1.3 miles of streamside road, three undersized culverts will be replaced with culverts sized to pass 100 year flood flows. The total sediment controlled through the above measures is estimated to be 8,900 cubic yards.

According to the applicant, the project is considered a salmonid restoration project to control stream sedimentation. It is being made possible by restoration grant funds administered by the California Department of Fish and Game, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and contributions by the Mendocino Redwood Company.

The proposed project will result in working on 1.3 miles of road within the riparian zone. The road and the fill material is approximately 16 feet wide, therefore 2.5 acres of the riparian zone will be affected, however the road was already present and it will be treated with a rock surface to prevent road surface erosion.

Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs). Instream work will take place between June 15 and October 15. Adhering to this schedule should minimize impacts to water quality and migrating fish. Work will be conducted in isolation from the flowing stream. If flows are present in the streams during the construction, the operator shall construct coffer dams upstream and downstream of the excavation site and divert all flow around the work area. The coffer dams will be constructed with clean gravel or sand bags, and may be sealed with sheet plastic. No heavy equipment will operate in the live stream, except as may be deemed necessary to construct the coffer dams.

A Negative Declaration was issued on June 25, 2002 for the project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); State Clearing House No. 2002052106.

The nearest receiving water is Hayworth Creek located in Noyo River Hydrologic Unit No. 113.20.

The restoration project is scheduled to begin upon issuance of the Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) and end October 15, 2003. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.